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Range extensions for some birds in northeastern Brazil

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Northeastern Brazil from northern Ceará south to the vicinity of Salvador, Bahia is, from the standpoint of the distributions of birds, among the mostly incompletely documented regions in eastern South America. Range delimitations in this region are, however, particularly important to determine as accurately as possible not only to describe the present geographic limits of birds but also to allow well-informed interpretation of the history of events that have resulted in the present picture here and in eastern Amazonia and southeastern Brazil. This part of Brazil was the first to be colonized by Europeans, and has suffered catastrophic loss of its natural habitat cover (Prado 1956, Andrade 1973). Today, as the dry woodlands, caatingas, and relictual humid forests (including the northernmost vestiges of the Atlantic Forest) of northeastern Brazil are being rapidly destroyed or severely altered by man, it becomes ever more difficult to separate the natural distributions of birds from the artificial state that is an inevitable result of such prolonged and concentrated human presence.

During the course of six field expeditions to northeastern Brazil between September and February 1988-1993, we documented with tape recordings the distributions and behaviours of several species of birds threatened with extinction (Collar *et al.* 1992), and some poorly known endemics (e.g. Whitney & Pacheco 1994). Here we report significant northern range extensions for 13 resident and/or migrant species, and southern extensions for three. A number of these are sight records. Included in this report are also five range extensions documented by Heretiano Zenaide (1954), who collected birds between about 1910 and the 1950s in the vicinity of João Pessoa and other points in the interior of the state of Paraíba, very near the northern limits of the Atlantic Forest. Although Zenaide collected and accurately identified many of the species he described in his book (1954), his relatives inform us that no specimens exist today. His rather obscure

work has been almost completely overlooked in statements of the distributions of birds. Among Zenaide's important cited records are the northernmost reports of the seven-coloured Tanager *Tangara fastuosa* (Collar *et al.* 1992). Interpretation of the validity of Zenaide's work is in preparation by Pacheco and Rajão (abstract in III Congresso Brasileiro de Ornitologia 1993). In conjunction with specific localities, we use the standard abbreviations for Brazilian states: AL (Alagoas); BA (Bahia); CE (Ceará); PB (Paraíba), PE (Pernambuco); RN (Rio Grande do Norte); SE (Sergipe).

RUFOUS-THIGHED HAWK *Accipiter erythronemius*

We observed one individual on 18 September 1991 at Barra Nova, CE (5°33'S, 40°05'W). Bonfim, northern BA, is the nearest published record (Pinto 1938), and is apparently the sole published record for Bahia. Additionally, Teixeira (1994) identified this species within iconographic material produced during the 17th century Dutch invasion of northeastern Brazil, and suggested that at some time the species' presence in the northeast might be definitely determined. Often considered a subspecies of Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*, this taxon was recently treated as an allospecies (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

WHITE-NECKED HAWK *Leucopternis lacernulata*

Zenaide (1954) captured and described this hawk on 31 October 1949 at João Pessoa, PB (7°07'S, 34°52'W). Although he left the identification as *Leucopternis* sp., his description agrees perfectly with that of *L. lacernulata* (Pacheco & Rajão in prep.). The previously published northern limit of this rare Atlantic forest endemic was Alagoas (Pinto & Camargo 1961, Collar *et al.* 1992).

WHITE-TAILED HAWK *Buteo albicaudatus*

Known from central and eastern Brazil from Bahia southward (Pinto 1978, Sibley & Monroe 1990), this species was only recently reported from Maranhão (Roth & Scott 1987) and Piauí (Olmos 1993). We saw one at the airstrip of Natal, RN (5°51'S, 35°15'W) on 17 November 1993 and another at Tianguá, CE (3°13'S, 40°58'W) on 18 September 1991. Considering that this species "is extending its presence in eastern Brazil because of deforestation" (Sick 1993), we suspect that the recent records in northeastern Brazil also represent range expansion.

SPECKLED CHACHALACA *Ortalis guttata*

The previously accepted northern limit for the population of eastern Brazil (*O. g. araucuan*) is "Pernambuco" (Forbes 1881, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Sick 1993). However, Zenaide (1954) included this gamebird in his work on the birds of Paraíba, without specific location. Between the states of Paraíba and Espírito Santo (including eastern Minas Gerais) this species has known localities for six states. Sergipe is the only state within this range without published records, although *O. guttata* presently occurs near Crasto (11°14'S, 37°25'W; Marcelo C. Souza pers. comm.).

BLACKISH RAIL *Pardirallus nigricans*

The published northern limit for this species is Pernambuco (Forbes 1881, Sibley & Monroe 1990). Paraíba is here considered the new limit based on the description under the number 49 in *Aves da Paraíba* (Zenaide 1954, Pacheco & Rajão in prep.). Additionally, the western limit in Brazil, although given as Goiás (Sick 1993), must be changed to Mato Grosso (Cintra & Yamashita 1990) and Mato Grosso do Sul (Pacheco & Bauer 1994).

SOUTH AMERICAN TERN *Sterna hirundinacea*

This coastal tern has been reported north to Bahia (Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Sick 1993) or north to Rio de Janeiro (Blake 1977, Sibley & Monroe 1990). The Bahian record apparently was based on an old specimen without data sent to the British Museum (Saunders 1896).

On 26 November 1993, we observed a group of eight *Sterna* terns near the mouth of the Rio Sergipe at Aracaju, SE. Although the birds were quite distant (500+ m) and useful observations were possible only through a Questar scope, we noted that five of the birds were in full breeding plumage (long forked tails and apparently complete black caps) and showed conspicuous dark 'wedges' at the wing tips, which we estimated to comprise at least the five outer primaries. We suspect that the birds were wintering *S. hirundinacea* that had attained breeding plumage before moving south to breed; it seems less likely that the birds might have been Common Terns *S. hirundo* that atypically had retained breeding plumage into late November. Further field work in coastal Brazil is needed to determine the northern limit of the wintering range of *S. hirundinacea*.

RUDDY QUAIL-DOVE *Geotrygon montana*

Although the range of this species within Brazil is not well specified in recent catalogues (Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Sibley & Monroe 1990), its distribution is primarily coincident with the original area of the Amazonian and Atlantic forests. Its presence in the forests of northeastern Brazil may be pieced together through scattered references: Maranhão (Oren 1990); Pernambuco (Naumburg 1930) and Alagoas (Forrester 1993). In the Atlantic forest this species at least historically extended as far north as Paraíba (Zenaide 1954, Pacheco & Rajão in prep.).

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT *Panyptila cayennensis*

This species was recorded only recently in northeastern Brazil, in Alagoas (Teixeira *et al.* 1988). We observed two or three individuals flying overhead at Dois Irmãos, PE (8°03'S, 34°54'W) on 17 November 1993.

LONG-TAILED WOODNYMPH *Thalurania watertonii*

Although the majority of the recent catalogues list this Brazilian endemic as occurring between Pará and Bahia (Meyer de Schauensee 1966, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Sick 1993), only Pernambuco and

Alagoas are known to have specimens with exact localities (Simon 1921, Berla 1946, Pinto 1954). The inclusion of Pará (and its subsequent citation) apparently is based on the highly dubious supposition of Gould (1856) of the provenance of two specimens he examined in the British Museum as probably being from the mouth of the Amazon. Bahia records in the literature are based on trade skins labelled "Bahia" reported by Simon (1897).

We found this species at Itabaiana Biological Reserve, SE, on 25 September 1991. Our record to the south of the Rio São Francisco corroborates the possibility of the existence of this hummingbird in northeastern Bahia at least, from whence probably came the "Bahia" trade skin(s).

The distributional limits of *Thalurania* species in Bahia are very poorly understood. We have been able to find only two published specimen records of the Violet-capped Woodnymph *T. glaucopis* for the state: Rio Gongogi (14°18'S, 39°25'W; Pinto 1935), and near Chapada Diamantina (Grantsau 1988) where we have also observed the species. Sight records by L. P. Gonzaga and ourselves of *Thalurania* from the vicinities of Boa Nova, Porto Seguro, and the Una Biological Reserve all pertain to *glaucopis*. Recent sight records of *T. watertonii* from southern Bahia (e.g. Forrester 1993) should be reconfirmed.

LETTERED ARACARI *Pteroglossus inscriptus*

Outside its widespread Amazonian range, this species has been reported in northeastern Brazil from Pernambuco (Sibley & Monroe 1990, Sick 1993). This historical record was based on one specimen collected on 13 August 1903 by A. Robert of the Tring Museum (Hellmayr 1912, Pinto 1940). We observed several individuals in three forest patches in Alagoas: Rio Largo, 24 October 1990; Passo do Camaragibe, 30 December 1990; and Murici Biological Reserve (9°15'S, 35°50'W), 4 January 1991.

SPOT-BACKED ANTSHRIKE *Hypoedaleus guttatus*

This antshrike has been reported previously from Bahia south to Santa Catarina (Ridgely & Tudor 1994) and Parque do Turvo (27°15'S, 53°57'W), Rio Grande do Sul (Poerschke 1987). We know of only two specimen records from Bahia: the south-central portion of the state near the Minas Gerais border, collected by Wied in 1831 (Bokermann 1957), and Jaguaquara (13°32'S, 39°58'W), where Kaempfer collected one male and one female at 2500 ft in September 1927 (Naumburg 1935, 1937). Additionally, Gonzaga *et al.* (in press) have found this species in small numbers east of Boa Nova. On 28 November 1993 we heard and tape-recorded *Hypoedaleus* at the Murici Biological Reserve, AL (9°15'S, 35°50'W), which represents a northern range extension of approximately 600 km. This distribution mirrors that of the sibling species pair *Terenura maculata* (Streak-capped Antwren), known from as far north as Valença, BA (Teixeira *et al.* 1989), and *T. sicki* (Orange-bellied Antwren), known from Murici and a handful of nearby localities in Alagoas and Pernambuco (Collar *et al.* 1992).

FRINGE-BACKED FIRE-EYE *Pyriglena atra*

This antbird is known only from humid lowland forest in the vicinity of Santo Amaro, BA (Collar *et al.* 1992). Humid forest in this region has been virtually cleared (pers. obs.), and *P. atra* is listed by Collar *et al.* (1992) as "Endangered". In 1994, Marcelo C. Souza of Aracaju, SE, discovered a population of *P. atra* in a humid forest fragment near Crasto, SE (M. C. Souza, pers. comm., and reported in IV Congresso Brasileiro de Ornitologia, 1994), extending the known range of the species northward by about 175 km. In early November 1994 we observed a minimum of six pairs of *P. atra* along a dirt road transecting the forest (11°22'S, 37°25'W; GPS coordinates). This forest may represent one of few remaining strongholds for *P. atra*, and the presence of an apparently healthy population in southern Sergipe suggests that the remaining forests south to the vicinity of Salvador and Santo Amaro (several significant patches noted from the drive along the newly opened "Linha Verde" highway) probably also hold some *P. atra*. Other birds treated by Collar *et al.* (1992) that occur in the Crasto forest include Golden-tailed Parrotlet *Touit surda* ("Vulnerable/Rare") and White-winged Cotinga *Xipholena atropurpurea* ("Rare") (M. C. Souza, pers. obs.). This forest merits high conservation priority.

BARE-THROATED BELLBIRD *Procnias nudicollis*

Although Teixeira *et al.* (1986) reported their records from Alagoas as the first from eastern Brazil north of the Rio São Francisco, it was previously reported "in abundance" at Igarapu, PE (Berla 1946). Additional early evidence for the presence of *P. nudicollis* in northeastern Brazil is a citation for Paraíba (Zenaide 1954), extending the range even further northward.

SLENDER-FOOTED TYRANNULET *Zimmerius gracilipes*

The presence of this canopy tyrannulet in northeastern Brazil is documented in the literature by a single individual collected at Serra de Baturité, CE (Pinto & Camargo 1961). However, Ridgely & Tudor (1994) included only Alagoas in the range. We have tape-recorded several individuals in the following sites: Murici Biological Reserve, AL, 21 October 1990; Pedra Talhada Biological Reserve, AL, 22 October 1990; and Serra de Baturité, CE, 16 September 1991 and 19 November 1993. In northeastern Brazil this species seems to be restricted to the serras, and is to be expected in other upland localities.

HIGHLAND ELAENIA *Elaenia obscura*

In eastern Brazil this elaenia is known from Rio de Janeiro and central Minas Gerais (vicinity of Belo Horizonte and Caraça) south to Rio Grande do Sul (Sibley & Monroe 1990, Sick 1993, Ridgely & Tudor 1994). The northernmost published report appears to be that of Mattos *et al.* (1991) from Januária, in northern Minas Gerais. On 30 November 1993 we tape-recorded *E. obscura* at Morro do Pai Inácio near Lençóis, central Bahia, which extends the range approximately 450 km to the north. Apparent migratory movements of *E. obscura* in eastern Brazil are poorly understood, but we suspect that further field

work will show that it breeds locally in northern Minas Gerais and south-central Bahia. Mention of a Brazilian name for this species in Pernambuco (Sick 1993) should be considered erroneous.

HANGNEST TODY-TYRANT *Hemitriccus nidipendulus*

This tyrannid is reported from eastern Brazil between Bahia and São Paulo (Sibley & Monroe 1990, Sick 1993, Ridgely & Tudor 1994), with the northern limit usually placed in interior central Bahia. However, the northernmost published record appears to be that of Pinto (1935) for Bonfim, BA. On 25 September 1991 we tape-recorded one individual at Itabajana Biological Reserve, SE, which marks the northeasternmost point of its known occurrence.

CROWNED SLATY-FLYCATCHER *Griseotyrannus aurantiofasciatus*

On 18 September 1991 we observed a single individual of this austral migrant tyrannid at Tianguá, CE (3°13'S, 40°58'W). Previous records in northeastern Brazil are from Maranhão and Piauí (Hellmayr 1929).

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